

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



S21  
A87F3

USDA LIBRARY

# Farm Broadcasters Letter



United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information Radio Television Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330

NOV 1989 SERIALS

Letter No. 2408

April 14, 1989

GRAIN TALKS SET -- U.S. and Soviet officials will meet in Washington, D.C., April 26 & 27 for regular, semi-annual consultations called for under the U.S.-USSR Long-Term Grain Agreement. The talks will include a review of the worldwide, U.S. and Soviet grain situation and the status of purchases and shipments under the agreement. Contact: Cina Radler (202) 447-3403.

YEUTTER PLEASED WITH GATT -- Sec. Clayton Yeutter told reporters in Washington April 10 he was "very pleased" with the outcome of the GATT negotiations held in Geneva the week before. He said the meeting successfully kept the Uruguay Round "on track," while "maintaining adequate flexibility for the final 20 months of negotiations."

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS -- The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry began confirmation hearings April 11 on Jack Parnell as deputy secretary of agriculture and Richard Crowder as undersecretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs. Full Senate confirmation is expected soon.

CULTURES CLASH -- As the growing season gets under way, farmers in western Howard County, Md., fear the cultural clash between them and their new neighbors will be worse than ever, the Washington Post reported recently. Folks living in upscale subdivisions and three-acre "farmettes" don't always appreciate the "perfume" when nearby farmers spread the winter's accumulation of manure on the land. Maryland and Virginia have farmland preservation programs and right-to-farm laws. These are only stopgap measures, however, says USDA's Ralph Heimlich. "If farming is to continue in a metropolitan setting, it must adapt," Heimlich says. "To adapt, farmers are slowly shifting to small-scale, high-yield, more commercial operations, such as vegetable stands, herb farms and turf farms." Contact: Ralph E. Heimlich (202) 786-1420.

VACCINE MAY MAKE CHEAPER PORK -- USDA and a San Francisco biotechnology firm are developing a vaccine that may make pigs more productive. Until now, scientists have been able to improve feed efficiency and rate of growth only through nutrition and breeding. This vaccine could mean "more quality pork produced at lower cost and in less time," according to animal physiologist Jerome C. Pekas. Contact Pekas at (402) 762-4203.



WANITA WILLIAMSON, public affairs specialist with USDA's Forest Service, has been USDA Radio's spokesperson in Alaska during the recent oilspill and the ensuing clean-up efforts. Wanita is group leader for mass media in the Alaska Region. You can call her in Juneau on (907) 586-8849. Another contact person is Denver James, information officer at the Incident Command Center in Valdez, Alaska. Call him on (907) 835-4801 or 835-4779.

FEED INDUSTRY MEETING -- More than 200 companies will display their equipment, services and supplies during the Feed Industries Show, sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association in Kansas City, Mo., May 8 - 10. Contact: Donna Troup (703) 524-0810.

NATIONAL FOOD & AGRICULTURE EXPOSITION will be held May 15-17 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. The show will feature nearly 500 exhibitor spaces. Contact: Diane Baedeker (617) 727-3018.

SIMPLE HOME REPAIRS -- Can you fix leaky faucets? How about ugly cracks around a bathtub? Does your house need a new coat of paint? How about doing it yourself? Because of the high costs of hiring someone to do home repairs, many homeowners are now doing the work themselves. USDA's Extension Service has two publications that can help: "Simple Home Repairs ... Outside" and "Simple Home Repairs ... Inside." For copies, call Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445. Media only, please.

MOVE OVER, OAT BRAN -- Hot on the hulls of oat bran come other foods that may also lower cholesterol, the Washington Post recently reported. You may soon see a public, tired of oat bran, turning to rice-bran and corn fiber. Even old-fashioned wheat bran is attracting new attention. USDA contact: Sheldon Reiser (301) 344-2396.

FARM SAFETY IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT at planting time. April is "Tractor Safety is No Accident" safety month. Bob Tyson, Univ. of Georgia Extension Service ag engineer, has some safety tips. A few are: be qualified and capable of each job, organize your work, be sure workers and family members are trained for their jobs, focus on each task and work without undue fatigue. Contact: Bob Tyson (404) 542-3066.

HIDDEN FARM INJURIES -- Farmers generally don't consider injuries that happen on the farm as accidents -- they're just part of the job description. According to the Hawaiian Range Newsletter, a study of livestock producers found 82 percent of all farm accident health claims were caused by horses, 12 percent by cattle and 6 percent from sheep, dogs and pigs. Finger, hand and amputations were the most common injuries. Bulls, as you might expect, were the most dangerous of cattle classes. Best strategy: Turn sideways to the bull, avoid looking directly at him, and move away sideways. Contact: Burt Smith (808) 885-7318.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1662 -- Here's some good advice on gardening, landscaping and lawn care. And, it doesn't always take a lot of hard work. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA, Pat O'Leary talks with extension specialists at the University of Maryland about some do's and don'ts of starting a garden, planting shrubs and ornamentals. (Weekly 13-1/2 min. documentary)

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1651 -- USDA News Highlights: wheat and cotton program comments; GATT update; crop insurance report; USDA proposed changes in cotton program. (Weekly reel of news features)

CONSUMER TIME #1143 -- Cutting back on fat; spring lawn care; getting into gardening; low energy landscapes; incredible shrinking foods. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 - 3 min. features)

USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Friday, April 21, cattle on feed, world food needs; Tuesday, April 25, poultry production outlook, weekly weather & crop update, foreign ag. trade update; Thursday, April 27, world tobacco situation; Friday, April 28, ag prices.

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359.  
Material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and USDA NEWS SERVICE are available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8:

Thursdays . . . . . 7:30-7:45 p.m., EDT, Transponder 12D  
ORIGINAL UPLINK

Saturdays . . . . . 10:30-11:15 a.m., EDT, Transponder 10D  
ORIGINAL UPLINK        Transponder 10D

Mondays . . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m., EDT, Transponder 12D  
REPEAT UPLINK

OFF MIKE

WATER...is the main issue in central California. Roy Isom (KMJ, Fresno) says some acres delayed in planting; local water not enough to augment contract water from the north. Says the pesticide issue has prompted a different approach by a local producer, vacuuming bugs off lettuce and strawberry crops, and that the producer claims his pesticide budget is down 73 percent. ITS A WAIT & SEE SITUATION...says Chuck Stark (KGNO, Dodge City, Kans.) regarding wheat crop in his area. Recent 5 inches of snow helped moisture, but freeze damage and green bugs have hit hard in both irrigated and nonirrigated fields. Several producers are replanting to oats. Says in 23 years it's as bad as he's seen at this time of year.

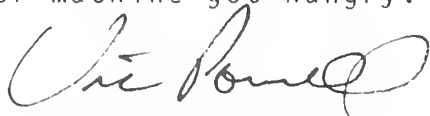
PERSPECTIVE...on the meat hormone issue from Dr. Russell Cross (head of Meats and Muscle Biology, Texas A&M Animal Sciences Department). Says beef from cattle treated with hormones is safe to eat; that a person could eat 4,470 pounds of treated beef each day without exceeding FDA limits.

Farm Broadcasters Letter  
Radio and Television, Rm. 410-A  
Office of Information, OGPA  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

CHECK OUT...that Nat'l Assn. Farm Broadcasters Inside Report featuring Rockwood Research, it's full of good information. National average over half of all tractors have a radio; weather-market-farm news items most listened to, about 3-1/2 hours a day in summer; wrapped around C&W music at 71 percent of stations. And much more. Available from NAFB (612) 224-0508.

RECENT...Farm Broadcasters Letter arrived at the desk of Jamie Kaestner (Nat'l Cattlemen's Assn, Denver) with what she says TOOKS like a bite out of it. It's a long way from D.C. to Denver, and a powerful appetite can get worked up, but someone or machine got hungry. Tension isn't that bad here.



VIC POWELL, Chief, Radio & TV Division